

**Approved Minutes
Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee
December 16, 2008**

Attendance: Jane Ashby, Peter Lillya, Karen Kowles, Fran VanTreese, Helene Ver Eecke, Glenn Barrington, Stephanie O'Keefe

Jane opened the meeting at 8:45 in the First Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall.

Jane reported that there is a problem for wheel chair users disembarking at the Post Office due to the location of the bus stop. She also said there is problem with the location of the benches at the Cows Lane bus stop. The benches are located too close together so that wheel chair users must sit in the pedestrian walkway.

Fran moved: "The PTBC recommend that the DPW move the benches placed near the Cowles Lane bus stop far enough apart to accommodate a wheel chair between them. Presently, wheel chair users must sit on the sidewalk in the middle of pedestrian traffic." Peter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

Jane asked Stephanie about how to get the bus shelters the PTBC requested installed at Kendrick Park and on Main Street. Stephanie said she would bring it up at the Select Board meeting. She will also bring up the wheel chair access and benches at Cowles Lane.

Peter moved to approve the minutes as amended. Fran seconded. Jane, Peter, Karen and Fran voted in favor. Helene abstained.

Fran reported on the Parking Task Force meeting. The town is going to enforce meter feeding starting in early 2009.

Peter reported that the Design Review Board meeting was canceled due to weather.

Jane reported that in the proposed Town Manager's budget, the Transportation Enterprise Fund has been divided into two accounts: Parking Management and Transportation. There was a long discussion about this restructuring of the accounts. The group decided to have a subcommittee meeting to discuss this issue on January 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

There was a long discussion about whether left turn lanes were needed at the intersection of West Street and Pomeroy Lane. There was concern that the turn lane would make the intersection difficult for pedestrians.

Peter moved: "The PTBC requests a traffic study be conducted to determine whether the volume of vehicles warrants the widening of West street to create a left hand turn lane at West Street and Pomeroy Lane." Karen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Roy Rosenblatt presented a proposal for accessibility improvements to sidewalks in the center of Town, East Amherst and Pomeroy Village Centers to be included in a CDBG application. Jane asked if we could review the project plans. Roy responded affirmatively. Jane asked if we could add bus shelters to the plans as well.

Peter moved: "The PBTC supports the town's Community Development Block Grant application that includes substantial repair to sidewalks within and around the East Village Center, the Pomeroy Lane Village Center and the sidewalks in and around Town Center. The purpose of this repair is to remove barriers for disabled individuals such that sidewalks comply with minimum Architectural Access Board Requirements." Karen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

The next full committee meeting will be WEDNESDAY January 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran VanTreese